

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 914

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0083

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, AO, SU

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI REPLY ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 001377, KHARTOUM 0010

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT NIMEIRI'S REPLY LETTER, DATED JAN 7,
TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON ANGOLA. ORIGINAL BEING
POUCHED AF/E.

2. QUOTE. EXCELLENCEY:

IT IS GOOD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON DISCONCERTING
ISSUES THAT HAMPER PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE AND DEVELOP-
MENT. OUR GREATLY IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH YOUR COUNTRY,
PERMIT, INDEED MAKE IT NECESSARY AT TIMES TO
CONSULT WITH A VIEW TO CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION. ANGOLA
IS A CASE THAT CALLS FOR SUCH COOPERATION; HENCE MY APPRECIATION
OF YOUR INITIATIVE.

LET ME BEGIN BY STATING THAT YOUR OBJECTIVES AND OURS
ARE ONE AND THE SAME. YOU SAY IT IS A PURELY AFRICAN AFFAIR.
WE SAY THE SAME. YOU STATE THAT THE EXTERNAL POWERS WHICH
FIGHT ON THE ANGOLAN SOIL SHOULD IMMEDIATELY LEAVE ANGOLA
ALONE. WE SHARE THIS WITH YOU. THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH
YOU BASED YOUR ASSESSMENT ARE THE SAME AS OURS.

MY BELIEF IN OUR RESTORED FRIENDSHIP LED ME TO EXPLAIN
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IN GREAT DETAIL TO YOUR AMBASSADOR THE REASON WHICH PROMPTED

THE EXTENSION OF OUR RECOGNITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LUANDA.
FOLLOWING IS A RESUME' OF MY LOGIC:

IN CONFORMITY WITH A RESOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY WE INITIATED OUR FIRST CONTACTS WITH MPLA DURING
THE EARLY STAGES OF THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE
OCCUPATION. WE SUPPORTED THEIR CAUSE BY ALL MEANS AT OUR
DISPOSAL. THIS INTRODUCED US TO SEVERAL LEADERS AND A NUMBER
OF PEOPLE CONDUCTING THE ACTUAL WAR AGAINST PORTUGUESE DOMINATION.
CONSEQUENTLY WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THEIR POINTS OF VIEW AND TO
ACQUAINT OURSELVES WITH THEIR ULTIMATE ENDS. OUR

CONTACTS CONTINUED TILL THE PORTUGUESE TRANSFERRED SOVEREIGNTY
TO THE 'PEOPLE' OF ANGOLA; NOT TO AN ADMINISTRATION OR A GROUP
OF PEOPLE OR A MOVEMENT.

WE DID NOT THINK HIGHLY OF THIS AND HAD NOT MUCH TO DO
BUT WATCH AND WAIT. THERE WAS OCCASION, HOWEVER, TO TAKE WITH
SOME LEADERS OF AFRICA AS WELL AS OTHERS DISTURBED BY THE WAY
THINGS WERE DRIFTING TOWARDS AN ABYSS. WE DECIDED
TO RECONGIZE THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT PARTLY
BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY DECLARED ONE, PARTLY BECAUSE
WE THOUGHT ANGOLA HAD TO HAVE A GOVERNMENT. NATURALLY WE COULD
NOT GO ON WAITING WITHOUT ASSISTING A GOVERNMENT THAT FOR ALL
PRACTICAL PURPOSES SEEMED AND SEEMS TO HAVE RELATIVELY
THE UPPER HAND AND SEEMINGLY A GREATER PORTION OF ANGOLA UNDER
ITS CONTROL. WE GAVE THE MORAL SUPPORT WE COULD TO THE LIKELIEST
GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA IN THE HOPE THAT OUR SUPPORT WILL HELP ITS
PRESTIGE TO PERSUADE OTHER WINGS OF THE REVOLUTION TO
ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH IT.

WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT EVENTUALLY A GOVERNMENT OF
NATIONAL UNITY WILL EMERGE AND GUARD THE NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA AGAINST FOREIGN INTRUDERS FROM WITHIN
AND WITHOUT AFRICA. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT HAS GONE QUITE A
WAY IN ASSERTING ITSELF AND CAN, WITH A LITTLE HELP AND SOME
FRIENDLY PERSUASION, DO THE JOB.

MR. PRESIDENT,

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EVEN THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE MPLA GOVERNMENT WE ARE
WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH YOU TO BRING A FINAL HALT TO
FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. WE ARE ALSO WILLING TO JOIN
YOU AND OTHER FRIENDS IN YOUR EFFORTS TO HELP ANGOLAN LEADERS
TO HELP THEMSELVES.

HERE I MUST COMMEND YOUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS SOUTH
AFRICA AS STATED IN YOUR MESSAGE. SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ROOTS

OF THE MATTER. YOUR EXCELLENCY IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT NONE OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL TOLERATE THE GINGER OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANY OF THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA. ALL AFRICANS LOOK UPON IT AS AN EVIL ISLAND IN A SEA WHICH WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN CALM ENOUGH TO HAVE ALL SAILING ON ITS PLANE. I AM NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS. SOUTH AFRICA IS A BASTION OF MISCHIEF TO US OUT HERE, PERHAPS TO YOU TOO, AWAY THERE, AND TO YOUR FRIENDS IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

I THANK YOU ONCE MORE FOR YOUR MESSAGE AND REST ASSURED THAT I AM HAPPY TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. I AM EQUALLY HAPPY TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH OUR POSITION IN SUDAN. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT OUR AIMS ARE THE SAME. IT DOES NOT DISCONCERT ME THAT WE DISAGREE OVER THE MEANS. WE ARE VERY NEAR TO THE CENTER OF EVENTS. THE SOUTHERN PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS SO NEAR TO THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS THE MILITARY FIELD OF OPERATIONS AND THEREFORE OUR DECISION HAVE TO TAKE STOCK OF THEM. SOME IDEAS THAT WE DO NOT APPROVE OF MAY BLOW INTO OUR REGION. WE ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT. WE PREFER TO PRESERVE OUR OLD FRIENDSHIP WITH SOME OF THE LEADERS OF ANGOLA, WE HAVE KNOWN, HOPING TO TRANSMIT TO THEM SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES THAT WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH.

YOUR POSITION IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE, AS YOU SAID IN YOUR MESSAGE, THE UNITED STATES HAS GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH IMPOSE ON HER CERTAIN LINES OF ACTIONS, THAT WE UNDERSTAND.

FINALLY MR. PRESIDENT, ALLOW ME TO REPEAT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES DO WELL WELL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITIONS EVEN IF THEIR PERSPECTIVE IS DIFFERENT.

THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE OUR PURSUIT, THINKING
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ALIKE OR NOT, REGARDLESS. TO UNDERSTAND IS TO SYMPATHISE;
PLEASE, LET US EXPLAIN TO EACH OTHER WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO.

YOURS SINCERELY

JAAFAR MOHAMED NIMEIRI UNQUOTE
BREWER

SECRET

NNN

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